

CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 8, wherein said step of processing said electronic message includes the steps of:~~ A method for processing an electronic mail message, comprising the steps of:

(a) accepting a request for e-mail server address information for an electronic message, said electronic message having an address, said address having an electronic mail receiving system domain with a recipient name encoded therein, said address further including a source identifier, and said address further including a local-part, said source identifier being encoded in said local-part;

(b) providing an e-mail server address for said recipient name in response to said request;

(c) accepting said electronic message at said e-mail server address;

(d) retrieving said source identifier from said local-part of said address and examining the source identifier included in said address;

(e) processing said electronic message based on processing instructions associated with said source identifier;

(a)(f) opening a database;

(b)(g) determining if an entry associated with said source identifier exists in said database;

(c)(h) if said entry exists, processing said electronic message in accordance with processing instructions contained in said entry;

~~(d)~~(i) if said entry does not exist, processing said electronic message in accordance with a default processing instruction.

Claim10 (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said recipient name is a sub-domain of said electronic mail receiving system domain, and wherein said step of providing an e-mail server address includes the steps of:

- (a) obtaining sub-domain address information for said sub-domain of said electronic mail receiving system domain;
- (b) providing said sub-domain address as said e-mail server address.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said step of obtaining said sub-domain address information includes the steps of requesting an address from a DNS server and receiving a sub-domain address from said DNS server in response to said request.

Claims 12 - 18 (cancelled)